



News Release



Shelby County Health Department

814 Jefferson Ave., Memphis, TN 38105

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 23, 2014

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**MONITORED OZONE EXCEEDENCE
For Wednesday, July 23, 2014
“Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups”**

MEMPHIS – In cooperation with the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ); the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH); and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), the Shelby County Health Department has issued a **“CODE ORANGE” AIR QUALITY ADVISORY FOR OZONE**, due to a monitored exceedance of the 8-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone **for the Memphis Metropolitan Area**. The Memphis Metropolitan Area includes Shelby County, Tennessee, Crittenden County, Arkansas, and DeSoto County, Miss. The afternoon levels of ozone exceeded the eight-hour NAAQS at the Shelby Farms monitor in Shelby County, TN. Under existing Air Quality Index guidelines, current air quality throughout the Memphis Metropolitan Area has become **“Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups”** and is expected to remain so until after sunset this evening. *Pollution emissions, a stagnant atmosphere, clear skies, and high temperatures* are the primary factors responsible for this afternoon’s poor air quality.

| Health Precautions: | OZONE REDUCTION TIPS |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• For Active Children and Adults• For Persons With Respiratory Difficulties | RECOMMENDED DURING “CODE ORANGE OZONE ADVISORIES” |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limit prolonged outdoor activities during afternoon hours• High ozone levels can cause nose, eye, throat, and lung irritation• High ozone levels can aggravate existing conditions and lead to increased potential for illness in this sensitive group | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refuel cars and lawnmowers after 7:00 pm, avoid spills and do not “top off” tanks• Carpool or mass transit• Combine errands instead of many separate trips• Drive less, especially during peak hours or hot days |

Under existing Air Quality Index guidelines, ozone levels are expected to reach the classification of **“Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups”**. *The forecast exceedance for tomorrow is expected as a result of stagnant conditions, increased temperatures, and decreased winds.*

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| Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (Orange) (Advisory) | 101 – 150 | Active children and adults, and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion. |
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For more information concerning air quality, contact one of the following:

SCHD Pollution Control at (901) 222-9599 or www.midsouthcleanair.org;

The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality-Planning and Air Quality Analysis Branch-Air Division at (501) 682-0767 or www.adeq.state.ar.us/air/default.htm;

The Arkansas Department of Health at (501) 661-2000 or www.healthyarkansas.com/environment/environment.html;

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality-Air Standards and Planning-Air Quality at (601) 961-5134 or www.deq.state.ms.us/MDEQ.nsf/page/Air_Ozone?OpenDocument.